

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7445

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 5321

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, EAID, MASS, US, FR, PK

SUBJECT: REPROCESSING ISSUE AFTERMATH

REF: (A) STATE 136685 (B) ISLAMABAD 5297 (EXDIS)

1. REFTELS OBVIOUSLY CROSSED, AND DEPTTEL--WITH ITS WELCOME NEWS OF FRENCH DECISION AND ITS SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR SECRETARY WITH AGHA SHAHI ON 2 JUNE--OVERTAKES EMBTEL IN MOST RESPECTS. I BELIEVE THAT TONE OF PROPOSED TALKING POINTS FOR SECOND MEETING WITH SHAHI ARE RIGHT ON THE MARK. THEY COULD BE RICHER, HOWEVER, IN SUBSTANCE, AND REF EMBTEL CONTAINS LIST OF OTHER ITEMS I BELIEVE WE SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER AS WE MOVE TO MEET AND, HOPEFULLY, TO CONTAIN ANTICIPATED NEGATIVE GOP REACTION TO FRENCH DECISION.

2. MOST IMPORTANT, AS EARNEST OF OUR SUPPORT, WOULD BE TO TELL THE GOP THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY ITS REQUEST FOR F-5E FIGHTERS, EITHER AS DIRECT SALE FROM US OR VIA IRAN. NO SINGLE ACTION OF OURS WILL HAVE QUITE THE SAME EFFECT AS A FAVORABLE INDICATION ON PAKISTAN'S F-5E REQUEST. NUMBERS AND TIMING COULD BE LEFT UNTIL LATER DISCUSSIONS.

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3. IT IS STILL NOT TOO LATE, I BELIEVE, TO CONSIDER ALSO THE POSSIBILITY OF TEMPERING OUR REMARKS AT THE PARIS CONSORTIUM MEETING ALONG THE LINES INDICATED IN REF EMBTEL.

4. AND A WORTHY--AND EASY--ADDITION TO THE ITEMS CONTEMPLATED FOR INCLUSION IN THE SECRETARY'S TALKING

POINTS WOULD BE THE \$25 MILLION FERTILIZER LOAN WHICH HAS BEEN ALREADY ALLOCATED AND WHICH REQUIRES ONLY A DECISION TO SIGN AND DISBURSE.

5. I WOULD NOTE ALSO THAT WHILE I AM PLEASED TO SEE THOUGHT BEING GIVEN TO PORT VISIT BY NUCLEAR-POWERED CRUISER, SUCH A VISIT HAS MORE VALUE IN TERMS OF THE POST-AFGHAN COUP JITTERS HERE IN PAKISTAN THAN IT HAS IN THE POST-FRENCH DECISION CONTEXT. IMPORTANCE IS THAT NPTG NOT TOTALLY BYPASS PAKISTAN AT THIS TIME.

6. I HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND AID WILL MOVE QUICKLY TO RECOUP THE FY-78 AID FUNDS WHICH WERE ORIGINALLY TARGETTED FOR PAKISTAN AND WHICH SULLIVAN TELLS US HAVE BEEN RE-ALLOCATED TO OTHER PROGRAMS, SO THAT WE MAY MOVE OFF OUR SELF-IMPOSED GLENN AMENDMENT RESTRAINTS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

7. ASSUMING THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH AGHA SHAHI HOLDS FOR THE 2ND, I WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW UP HERE ON 3 JUNE WITH GENERAL ZIA OR, THAT FAILING, WITH GHULAM ISHAQ, SECRETARY GENERAL-IN-CHIEF. MY PURPOSE WOULD BE TO ENSURE THAT OUR MESSAGE IS NOT DISTORTED BY ANY FILTER SHAHI--WHO HAS BEEN STRONGLY COMMITTED TO THE REPORCESSING PLANT--MAY IMPOSE IN HIS OR AKHUND'S REPORTING OF THE FRENCH DECISION OR OF THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS.

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8. I RECOMMEND FURTHER--WHILE DEFERRING TO BILL SULLIVAN'S COUNSEL--THAT AS PART OF OUR EFFORT TO KEEP THE PAKISTANI REACTION FROM MUSHROOMING ALL OVER THE LANDSCAPE, THE SHAH BE REQUESTED TO SEND A PRIVATE MESSAGE TO GENERAL ZIA PUTTING HIS WEIGHT BEHIND THE IDEA OF A CALM ACCEPTANCE OF THE DECISION AS INEVITABLE, ETC.

9. I WOULD LIKE ALSO TO BE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM SAUDI AMBASSADOR AL-KHATIB OF SUBSTANCE OF TALKING POINTS, AFTER I HAVE USED THEM WITH GENERAL ZIA. PURPOSE WOULD BE TO ADD SAUDI WEIGHT TO URGE GOP NOT TO INDULGE IN INTEMPERATE REACTION. SAUDIS DO NOT AGREE WITH US NONPROLIFERATION POLICY TOWARD PAKISTAN, BUT I BELIEVE AL-KHATIB CAN BE MADE TO SEE WISDOM OF GOP ACCEPTANCE OF FRENCH FAIT ACCOMPLI. HE IS SEASONED, INFLUENTIAL CAREER DIPLOMAT WHO HAS EXPRESSED TO ME HIS CONCERN AT USG INABILITY TO HELP PAKISTAN ECONOMICALLY, POLITICALLY, AND MILITARILY, AND PROSPECT OF SUBSTANTIAL USG SUPPORT SHOULD INDUCE HIM TO COUNSEL GOP MODERATION, EVEN IF HE DISAGREES WITH OUR POLICIES TOWARD THE PLANT.

10. FINALLY, AND WITHOUT MEANING TO BELABOR THE OBVIOUS, I FEEL IT IMPORTANT THAT HOWEVER JUBILANT WE MAY BE ABOUT THIS QUITE EVIDENT SUCCESS IN THE PRESIDENT'S CAMPAING TO CURB NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION, OUR ABILITY TO BRING THE PAKS ALONG TO A RATIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE FACT OF THE FRENCH DECISION AND TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE GOP ALONG LINES SUGGESTED REF DEPTL WILL BE DEMOMLISHED BY SIGNS OF TRIUMPHANT PUBLICITY OR CROWING ON THE PART OF US OFFICIALS. THIS IS NOT A SUBJECT ON WHICH WE NEED AN EVANS AND NOVEK COLUMN SPELLING OUT ALL OF THE DETAILS OF THE PAST THREE YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FRENCH, THE IRANIANS, AND THE PAKS.

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN.

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